

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
THE LATE ZURAB ZHVANIA, PRIME MINISTER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND
EMERGING THREATS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION
ON
H. Res. 108
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**COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF THE LATE
ZURAB ZHVANIA, PRIME MINISTER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 1:05 p.m. in room 2200, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Elton Gallegly [Chairman of the Subcommittee] presiding.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Pursuant to the notice, I call resolution H. Res. 108 for the purposes of markup and move its recommendations to the Full Committee. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[The resolution referred to follows:]

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime Minister of the
Republic of Georgia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GALLEGLY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime
Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

Whereas on the night of February 3, 2005, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania, died, apparently due to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a malfunctioning heater;

Whereas the death of Prime Minister Zhvania at the age of 41 is a tragic loss for the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania was a dedicated reformer whose visionary leadership inspired a new generation of political leaders in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania founded the Citizen's Union Party, which won elections in 1995, making him the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament;

Whereas under the leadership of Speaker Zhvania, the Georgian Parliament was transformed into an effective and transparent legislative institution;

Whereas in November 2001, Speaker Zhvania resigned his position in protest when government authorities attempted to suppress the leading independent television station in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania formed the United Democrats, a party that blossomed into one of the major forces that brought about the Rose Revolution in the Republic of Georgia in November 2003;

Whereas in the most dangerous hours of the Rose Revolution, when it appeared that armed force could be used against the peaceful protestors, Zurab Zhvania dismissed his bodyguards and led a march to Parliament accompanied only by his young children;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania was named Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia in November 2003, and led governmental efforts to develop and implement far-reaching economic, judicial, military, and social reforms thereby turning the promise of the Rose Revolution into real results that have dramatically improved life in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas the strong commitment of Zurab Zhvania to the peaceful restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia was most recently displayed in the central role he played in the development of the unprecedented and generous proposal of the Republic of Georgia

for resolving the status of South Ossetia peacefully and justly; and

Whereas Zurab Zhvania's vision of the historical destiny of the Republic of Georgia was eloquently expressed before the Council of Europe on April 27, 1999, when he said, "I am Georgian and therefore, I am European": Now, therefore, be it.

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses its sympathy and deepest con-
3 lences to the family of Zurab Zhvania for their trag-
4 ic loss of a son, husband, and father, and to the peo-
5 ple of the Republic of Georgia for the death of their
6 Prime Minister;

7 (2) commends the courage, energy, political
8 imagination, and leadership of Zurab Zhvania that
9 were so critical to the development of a democratic
10 Republic of Georgia;

11 (3) recognizes that the integration of the Re-
12 public of Georgia into Euro-Atlantic institutions will
13 be the completion of the vision of Zurab Zhvania
14 and his most lasting legacy; and

15 (4) expresses its solidarity with the people and
16 Government of the Republic of Georgia at this dif-
17 ficult time.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Today, the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats is marking up H. Res. 108, a resolution which commemorates the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, who at the time of his death was the Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

On February 3, the Prime Minister died suddenly, apparently as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a malfunctioning heater. This resolution expresses the House of Representatives' sympathy and condolences to the family of Zurab Zhvania, and to the people of Georgia for the death of their Prime Minister. The resolution also commemorates the life of Zurab Zhvania and calls for the completion of his vision to integrate Georgia into the greater European land community.

Prime Minister Zhvania was a prominent leader in Georgia's Rose Revolution. He was a true reformer, a strong believer in democracy, and a good friend of America. In fact, Georgia recently decided to increase its troop levels in Iraq at the very time when other nations are drawing down their military presence in the country. Georgia also participates in the peace keeping mission in Kosovo, and also has troops in Afghanistan.

The death of Zurab Zhvania is a tragic loss for Georgia, and all those who support democracy in that nation, and I ask my colleagues to support this resolution. And at this point, I would recognize my good friend, the Ranking Member, Rob Wexler.

Mr. WEXLER. I thank the Chairman. I applaud his drafting and sponsorship of this resolution, and join with him in commemorating the life of the late Georgian Prime Minister, Zurab Zhvania.

I would also like to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to his family on their tragic loss. The people of Georgia have, unfortunately, lost a great leader whose vision of a democratic and free nation are now finally being realized.

Inspiring thousands of Georgians during the Rose Revolution, Zurab Zhvania led by example, with an unwavering determination to bring lasting change to his nation. As the people of Georgia mourn the passing of Prime Minister Zhvania, they should know that the United States, and many, many Americans, stand in solidarity with them during this difficult time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GALLEGLY. At this time are there any amendments? Hearing none, the question occurs on the motion to report the resolution H. Res. 108 favorably. All in favor say aye.

Mr. WEXLER. Aye.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Aye. Any opposed? Hearing none, the motion is approved and the resolution is reported favorably. The staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments. The business as it relates to the markup is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 1:08 p.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]